toot stuff (not for the squeamish)

<- Upperclass Japanese women blackened them (ohaguro) up through the 19th century.

It was fashionable in England too, but that was just rich peoples' teeth rotting from -> too much sugar - a luxury import.

- The Balinese file them down to advertise being of marrying age, while several cultures, including the Mentawai of Indonesia, sharpen them as a beauty thing.

And then there's dental evulsion, deliberate tooth removal. Some societies still practice it as a rite of passage, and it's a regional fashion thing in part of Cape Town - the "Cape Flats smile."

a bit ago
i was in a seedy strip mall
on the outskirts of pittsburgh
in front of a pawn shop
(my first mistake)
when
a guy in a beat up car pulled up
in front of me and my kids
and said
"hey,
want to see something
cool?"
alarm bells

it wasn't a gun, or his junk
but
an african grey parrot
and it was pretty cool, yes,
but maybe his approach
could use
some work.

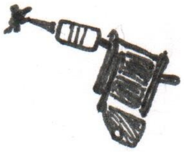
"Don't spread the discontent
don't spread the lies
Don't make the same mistakes
with your own life

and don't disrespect
yourself -
don't lose your pride

and don't think everybody's
going to choose your side
oh no..."

"Break Your Heart",
Natalie Merchant

Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 9/27/25
trvose@hotmail.com



SINCE LAST ISSUE:

- Drank a refreshing can of Aged Vimto

SPARKLING
Vimto

- Had a bunch of colored dust thrown at me
- Taught the boys to shave - and one girl how to throw a punch
- Looked at Linux-based phone and laptop options
- Quailed in the backyard
- Started planning a Retro Game Challenge for the public
- Took actual time off for once
- Remembered an old comic from 1990 that I found hi-larious
- Learned that our library's brand-new roof had failed while on the other side of the state
- Discovered that "fox" in Dutch is "vos"
- Overcommitted, probably, for an upcoming conference

I recently had the pleasure of paying a social call upon some relatives:

Captain Thomas Vose

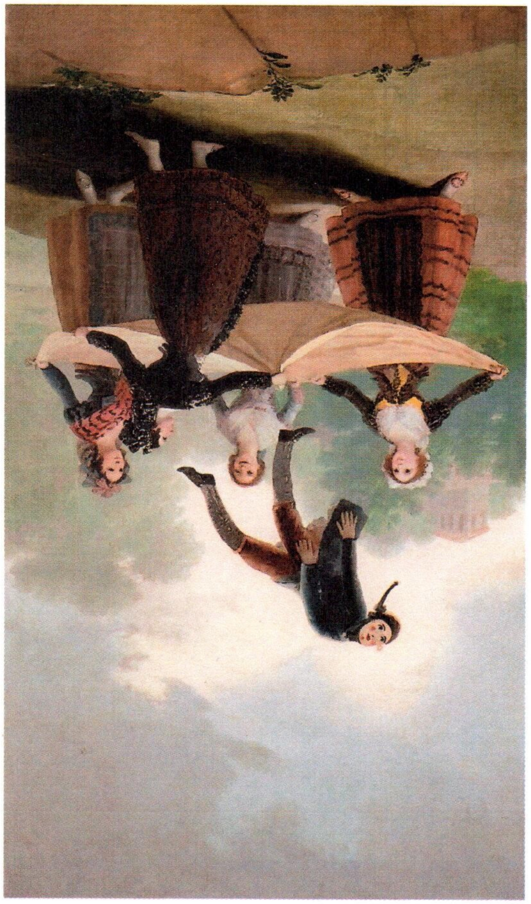
and his wife

Waitstill Wyatt

my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents.

(It was pretty great.)

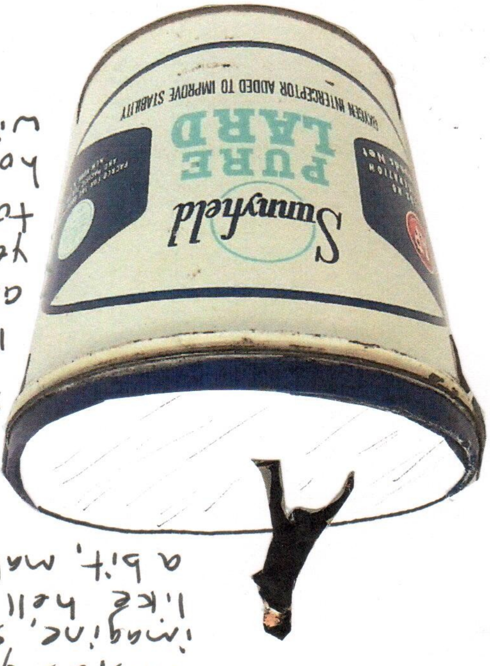
They weren't terribly communicative.



"THE STRAW MANIKIN"

FRANCISCO GOYA, 1791

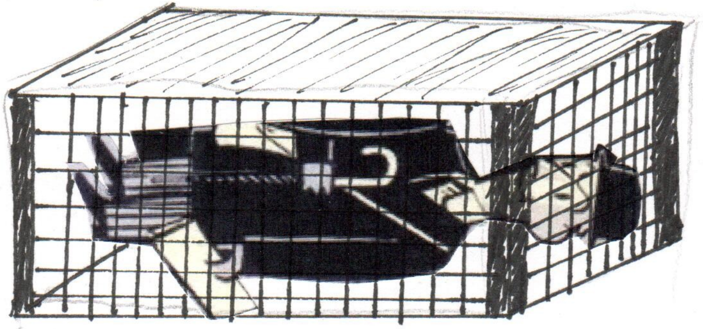
Before refrigeration, making an ice rink was kinda hard. A guy named Henry Kirk put one together in the early 1840s - made of copper sulfate, salt and pig fat.


Sunnyfield
PURE LARD
OXYGEN INTERCEPTOR ADDED TO IMPROVE STABILITY

This, as you can imagine, stank like hell after a bit, making his efforts less than successful.

It took another 30 years or so to figure out how to do it with water.

... speaking of those wacky Brits...
German bombs got you down? Can't afford a fancy ~~backyard~~ backyard hidey-hole? Get yourself a Morrison Shelter!

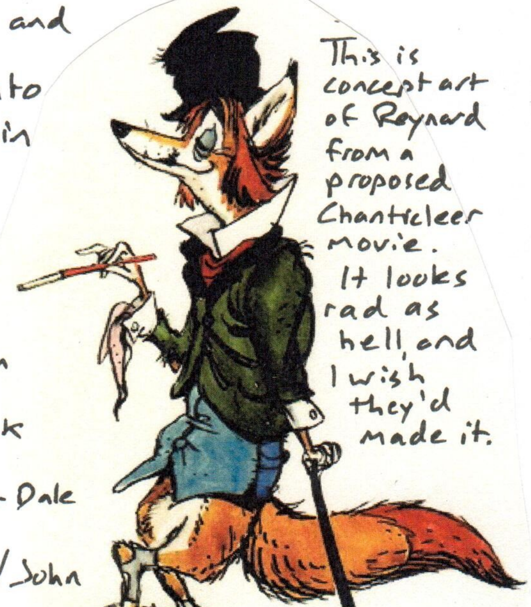


It was basically a cage you put together and huddled/slept in with 3mm of steel up top in case the building collapses on you.
The government gave out over half a million of the things to poorer households during the war. Many used it as a table during the day.
Based on casualty statistics, they do seem to have genuinely worked...

Disney really wanted to make an adaptation of the Romance of Reynard the Fox back in the 1930s - but Walt figured that the bluenoses at the Hays Code office wouldn't be down with an antihero protagonist like him.

The animals and ideas got recycled into 1973's Robin Hood:

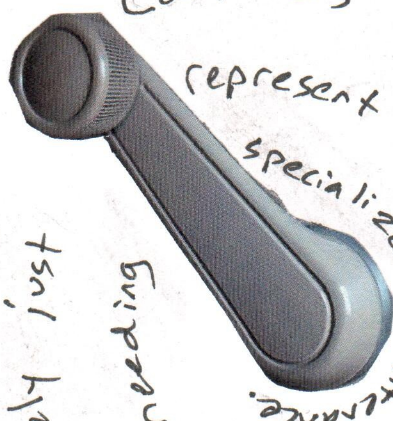
Reynard
  ↳ Robin
Isengrim
  ↳ Sheriff
Bruin
  ↳ Little John
Grimbart
  ↳ Friar Tuck
Chanticleer
  ↳ Allan-a-Dale
Noble
  ↳ Richard/John



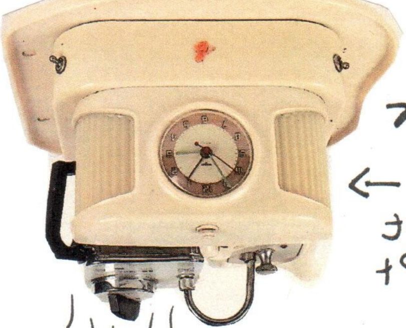
This is concept art of Reynard from a proposed Chanticleer movie. It looks rad as hell and I wish they'd made it.

hot take

Computers in cars are massively overused and ultimately just represent another expensive failure point needing specialized maintenance.



so I was reading a book about the history of stuff (as one does) and it suddenly got into the history of this →



the Teasmade (which I had never heard of), made by the delightfully named "Goblin" company.
It's a combination alarm clock/teakettle that fires up a cuppa to wake up with when the alarm goes off.
As a mainstay of the Swinging Sixties, it apparently has huge retro cachet in England and shows up now and again in British shows.
There is a website exhaustively dedicated to them, and collecting thereof - www.teasmade.uk

LIBRARY NEWS

Vol. 1 September, 2025

Editorial

By Thomas Vose
ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR

If libraries exist to provide good information

and that information is increasingly hard to distinguish

and faith in the media is at an all time low

and corporate media is killing off the local

and social media is filling that void with garbage

would, therefore, it be incumbent upon us as librarians

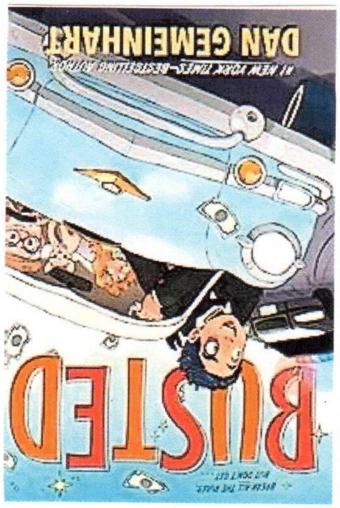
to step into yet another critical societal lacuna

and embrace a role as quasi journalists,

curators and disseminators of reputable local news?

read all about it!
(or something)

You Should Read:


BUSTED
DAN GEMEINHART
#1 NEW YORK TIMES–BESTSELLING AUTHOR
BREAK ALL THE RULES. BUT DON'T GET ...

It's the story of a kid living in a retirement home who finds himself busting out an elderly wiseguy and helping him check off his bucket list with the help of the daughter of the home's new owner. The characters are wonderful, the story extremely fun, fast-paced and touching (and pulls no punches, either, often literally), and delves a lot into what makes for a good person.

One of my favorites so far this year.

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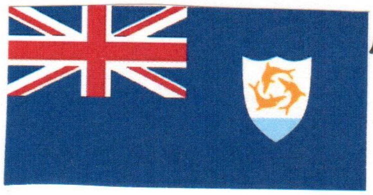
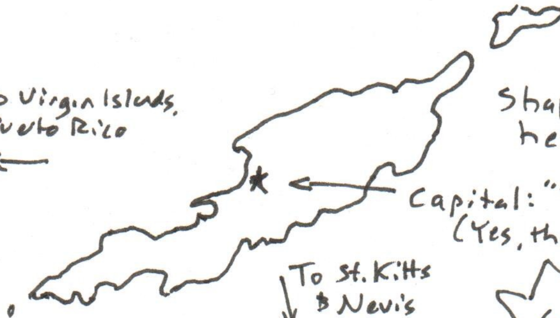
what's ANGUILLA's angle, anyway?

A British territory, hence



their flag has dolphins playing on it!

Owns the .ai domain, and is playing that up for all it's worth.



"Scrub Island." Evocative.

To Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico ←

Shaped like an eel (?) hence the name.

Capital: "The Valley" (Yes, that's what it's called)

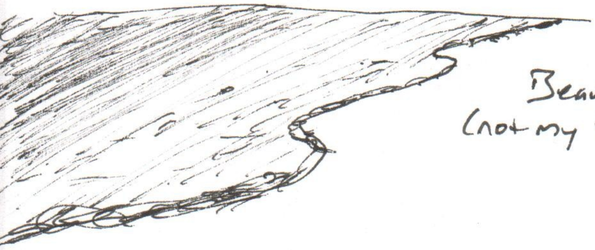
To St. Kitts & Nevis

(Only ≈35 square miles total)

Anguillita Island (I love that)

Excellent fishing, calypso music and boat racing!

Tended to be fobbed off onto St. Kitts for governance, historically - and nobody liked that. Got independence from Britain along with St. Kitts back in 1967, but got sick of St. Kitts, kicked out their administrators, and voted to be part of Britain again.



Beautiful white sand beaches - (not my thing, but to each their own)

Many descended from slaves, who bought up the property when the plantation owners left upon emancipation.